REMARKS

Claims 7-9 and 12-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 12-14 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-9 and 12-20[1] under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (hereafter "AAPA") and U.S. Patent No. 5,546,098 to Moriconi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit even if combined, AAPA and Moriconi do not teach or suggest at least a feature of a timing control unit located on a module control board that also has a back light unit driver for driving a back light unit of the panel module and combinations thereof as recited in claim 7. Further, the asserted combination fails to teach or suggest a notebook computer having a body module with a main printed circuit board and a driving circuit mounted on the main printed circuit board that drives the drivers in the display module and connected to a back light unit and combinations thereof as recited in claim 12.

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[1]The Office Action rejects claim 7-9 and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103. Since claim 11 was canceled and claim 20 was added by the November 19, 1998 Preliminary Amendment, this Amendment addresses the rejection of claims 7-9 and 12-20.

In contrast, and as indicated in the Office Action, Moriconi discloses that display circuitry (asserted to correspond to the timing control circuit) is located in a system body module different from a panel module. Thus, Moriconi fails to teach or suggest a circuit board, which is loaded with both a timing control unit and a back light driver and combinations thereof as recited in claim 1.

AAPA discloses a panel module 22 including a timing control circuit chip in a timing control board 16 and a back light driver 26. See at least Figure 1 of AAPA. However, the timing control circuit chip and the back light driver 26 disclosed in AAPA are located on two different circuit boards separated from each other.

In preferred embodiments according to the present invention, a timing control circuit is located on a printed circuit board 80 loaded with a back light driver 66. See at least Figure 15, page 19, lines 28-31, and page 16, line 23-page 17, line 33 of the present specification. In another preferred embodiment according to the present invention, a timing control circuit is located in a system body 52 together with the back light driver. See at least Figure 18 and page 19, line 33-page 20, line 11 of the present specification. Configurations disclosed in preferred embodiments according to the present invention allow elements of a notebook computer and connections therebetween to be reduced in number. Thus, preferred embodiments according to the present invention enable an effective display area of a panel module to be increased.

As described above, AAPA and Moriconi, individually or in combination, would not result in at least features of a module control board or a main printed circuit board in a panel module having a timing control unit for driving the drivers and a back light unit driver for driving the back light unit and combinations thereof as recited in claim 7, a driving circuit mounted on the main printed circuit board that drives the drivers in the display module and combinations thereof as recited in claim 12 and a module control board and combinations thereof as recited in claim 13.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 7 and 12 define patentable subject matter. Claims 8-9 and 13-20 depend from claims 7 and 12, respectively, and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least that reason as well as their additionally recited features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact

Applicant's undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enc: Petition for Extension of Time

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Date: August 8, 2001

Amended Claims With Mark-ups to Show Changes Made

12. (Amended) A notebook computer, comprising:

a display module, wherein the display module comprises,

a display device that displays data, and

drivers mounted in the display module that drive the display device;

a body module, wherein the body module comprises,

a main printed circuit board that processes the data for the display device, and

a driving circuit [coupled to] mounted on the main printed circuit board that drives the drivers in the display module; and

a [flexible printed] connecting circuit [film] that connects the drivers and a back light unit with the driving circuit, wherein said connecting circuit comprises,

a flexible printed circuit film that connects between the drivers and the driving circuit, and

a conductive line that connects between the driving circuit and the back light unit.

13. (Amended) The notebook computer of claim 12, wherein the display module further comprises [a] the back light unit that irradiates the display device, and

wherein the driving circuit is a module control board mounted on the main printed circuit board, and wherein the module control board drives the back light unit.

14. (Amended) The notebook computer of claim 13, wherein [a] the conductive line connects the back light unit with the [driving circuit] module control board.